



QUAINT OLD ROOKERIES

IN opening up a new street even in the most familiar parts of the city many unsuspected architectural secrets may be revealed. Solid blocks of houses or office buildings often shelter quaint old alleyways or groups of buildings which have long escaped the tide of improvement. In these quiet backwaters such a group may survive several generations. When the modern house wrecker has done his work the public looks with amazement upon a survival of the old city which had become only a memory.

Such a group of old buildings has recently been brought to light within sound of the roar of Broadway, in one of its noisest and busiest sections. It is difficult to fix the exact date of these ramshackle old structures, but judging from external evidences they were probably erected rather more than half a century ago. They are a survival of many similar groups common on Manhattan Island in the days of the so-called squatters and the period of domestic architecture which they created.

Until recently a few of these shacks stood on upper Fifth avenue. The opening of Central Park destroyed many examples scattered over the hills and valleys of that region. A rigid system of building inspection is rapidly destroying the last traces of these old shanties, which make so striking a contrast with the modern city of steel and stone.

